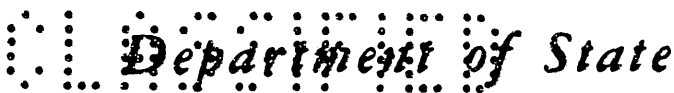


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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3648

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

**S E C R E T K A B U L 4965**

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PK, AF

SUBJ: INTERNAL AFGHAN SITUATION

REF: A.KASUL 4881 B. NO. NKH-3384 (28 JUL 75)

1. SUMMARY: WITH PASSAGE OF TIME, THE DIMENSIONS OF DISTURBANCES IN AFGHANISTAN'S PANSHIR VALLEY AND VIOLENCE IN OTHER AREAS REPORTED REF A APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONTAINED AND CONTROLLED BY GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA). NEVERTHELESS, THE DISTURBANCES AND IMPACT UPON PUBLIC CREATED BY WILDLY INFLATED RUMORS OF TROUBLES MAY POSE SIGNIFICANT TEST OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE DAUD REGIME. PANJSHIR NOW APPEARS TO BE QUIET, THOUGH RUMORS AND REPORTS OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN PAKTIA, LAGHMAN AND NANGARHAR CONTINUE.

REPORT FROM [ ] OF STATUS OF GOVERN-  
MENT INVESTIGATION SIMILAR TO EARLIER REPORT OF  
PAKISTAN ORIGIN OF TROUBLEMAKERS (REFTEL A)  
THOUGH ADMITTING THAT THERE WAS SOME LOCAL  
PARTICIPATION IN PANJSHIR DISTURBANCES. ONE'S PRESENT  
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RUMORS AND REPORTS GIVE SOME PLAUSIBILITY TO VIEW THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN UNOFFICIAL PAKISTANI CONNECTION IN BACKGROUND OF SOME INSURGENTS CAPTURED IN PANJSHIR. MINISTER OF INTERIOR FAIZ MOHAMMAD MAY BE VULNERABLE, SINCE MILITARY OFFICER WITH LONG-TIME RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT DAUD IS REPORTEDLY HEADING OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISTURBANCES. GOA APPEARS TO BE AVOIDING DRAMATIC WORSENING OF RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN SINCE, BESIDES ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTED REFTEL, A, AND ONE BURST OF REHASH EDITORIALS, THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN ANTI-PAK PROPAGANDA. END SUMMARY.

2. AS HARDER FACTS ON PANJSHIR INCIDENTS NOW EMERGE, IT IS CLEAR THAT DIMENSIONS OF THE TROUBLES THERE ARE RELATIVELY MODEST WHEN COMPARED WITH WILDLY INFLATED FIGURES OF HUNDREDS DEAD AND WOUNDED WHICH ARE COMMON CURRENCY IN KABUL. SAME APPLIES TO REPORTS OF TROUBLES FROM OTHER AREAS AS WELL WHERE ACTUAL DEATHS APPEAR MINIMAL BUT ARE POPULARLY INTERPRETED AS LARGE-SCALE INCIDENTS. FOLK MYTHS CONCERNING PANJSHIR MAY LINGER LONG AFTER EVENTS AND MAY HAUNT GOA FAR MORE THAN REALITIES OF THE INCIDENTS THEMSELVES. DISTURBANCES AND IMPACT OF RUMOR AND SPECULATION ON PUBLIC MIND REPRESENT MOST SIGNIFICANT TEST OF DAUD REGIME'S AUTHORITY IN ITS TWO YEAR HISTORY.

3. WHILE THERE ARE CONTINUING RUMORS OF SPORADIC INCIDENTS IN PANJSHIR, THE VALLEY APPEARS TO REMAIN UNDER CONTROL. ELSEWHERE, REPORTS AND WEIGHT OF RUMOR INDICATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN VIOLENCE IN PAKTIA (MANY BELIEVE THE POLICE COMMANDANT HAS BEEN KILLED), LAGHMAN (SEVERAL POLICE AND PERHAPS THE COMMANDANT KILLED OR WOUNDED), AND NANGARHAR. [

(b) (1)  
(c) (1) (3) (4) (5)

[ BLAST DAMAGE TO TRANSMISSION LINE POLES IN LATAPAND PASS (BETWEEN SAROBI AND JALALABAD), WHICH HAS BEEN CAUSE OF INTERMITTENT.

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LOSS OF POWER IN AREAS OF KABUL.

4. BEST INFORMATION TO DATE ON GOVERNMENT VIEW OF DISTURBANCES IS CONTAINED IN [ ]

WHILE TRUST OF ACCOUNT IS ROUGHLY SIMILAR TO THAT PROVIDED [ ]

IT ADMITS SOME LOCAL PARTICIPATION. GOA'S LACK OF ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF PANJSHIR TROUBLE, AS EVIDENCED BY WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT AMERICAN AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS TO MOUNT AN EXPEDITION INTO UPPER PANJSHIR THE DAY BEFORE OUTBREAK, ADDS WEIGHT TO POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN INPUT SINCE GOA'S RECORD OF PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE AGAINST HOME-GROWN CONSPIRACIES IS STRONG.

5. WHILE AFGHAN PUBLIC HAS BECOME USED TO REPEATED CRIES OF PAKISTANI INVOLVEMENT, THE DEPARTURE OF PAK AMBASSADOR ALI ARSHAD ON THE DAY OF PANJSHIR OUTBREAK HAS FUELED SPECULATION.

[ ] IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR JULY 30, HAS BACKED AWAY FROM POSITION THAT THERE WAS OFFICIAL PAKISTANI INVOLVEMENT, INCLINING TOWARDS VIEW THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME INFORMAL ASSISTANCE BY ELEMENTS OF PAK MILITARY WITHOUT OFFICIAL SANCTION. WE TEND TO DISCOUNT REPORTS OF OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN INVOLVEMENT, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ISLAMABAD'S ASSESSMENT OF LIKELIHOOD OF UNOFFICIAL MILITARY SUPPORT FROM A GROUP, PERHAPS OF FUNDAMENTALIST ISLAMIC BENT.

6. INTERESTING DISCLOSURE IN REF B, IS THAT INVESTIGATION OF DISTURBANCE IS NOT BEING LED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR FAIZ MOHAMMAD, BUT COMMANDER OF MILITARY ACADEMY MAJ. GEN. AHMADZAI SHAHPUR WHO HAS LONG STANDING AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH DAUD BOTH DURING LATTER'S PREMIERSHIP AND RETIREMENT. OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE IN PAKTIA, WHERE FAIZ MOHAMMAD HAS STRONG TIES AND WHERE HE PLAYED STRONG ROLE IN QUIETING ANTI-GOVERNMENT VIOLENCE THIS SPRING (A-28, MAY 7, 1975), AS WELL AS THE PANJSHIR TROUBLES MAY HAVE RENDERED MINISTER'S POSITION MORE VULNERABLE.

7. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCEMENT REPORTED REF A AND SUBSEQUENT EDITORIAL REHASHES, WE DO NOT FIND SIGNIFICANT HEATING OF ANTI-PAKISTAN PROPAGANDA. WHILE GOA MAY BELIEVE IN PAKISTANI CONNECTION,

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AT PRESENT GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO WISH TO AVOID WORSENING  
OF RELATIONS THAT MORE STRIDENT DRUM BEATING MIGHT ENTAIL.

8. AS OF JULY 30 KABUL IS QUIET AND NORMAL WITH NO  
EVIDENT EXTRA SECURITY PRECAUTIONS AROUND PRESIDENTIAL  
PALACE OR ELSEWHERE.  
ELIOT.

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